

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SP, NATO

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: USNATO 4102

1. DEPARTMENT FILES DO NOT INDICATE THAT INSTRUCTION TO US MIL REP TO RAISE SPAIN-NATO QUESTION IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WAS FORMALLY COORDINATED WITH US, BUT THE IDEA MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED INFORMALLY AT THE WORKING LEVEL.

2. INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO US SUGGESTS THAT PRIVATE MILITARY COMMITTEE SESSION ON JULY 15 WAS CALLED TO REGISTER US MIL REP'S CONVICTION THAT IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE FOR NATO'S MILITARY PROFESSIONALS TO ASSESS SPAIN'S DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION TO NATO IN A PURELY MILITARY CONTEXT AND THAT THE QTE POLITICAL UNQTE CONSIDERATIONS OF THE PROBLEM SHOULD NOT AS A MATTER OF PRECEDENT PREVENT THIS QUESTION'S BEING DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, NOTHING FURTHER WILL BE DONE ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE UNTIL APPROXIMATELY OCTOBER, WHEN US MIL REP WILL PRESENT US ASSESSMENT OF SPAIN'S MILITARY

CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE. JCS REPORTEDLY SEES THIS
AS THE END OF THE PROCESS AND HAS NOT EVER INTENDED THAT

IT BE CARRIED TO NAC/DPC.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT USG HAS TAKEN THE ISSUE OF ASSOCIATING
SPAIN WITH NATO AS FAR AS IT CAN UNDER PRESENT CIRCUM-
STANCES. RESISTANCE OF ALLIES TO EXPLICIT ASSOCIATION OF
SPAIN WITH NATO WITHSTOOD EFFORTS OF SECDEF AND THE
PRESIDENT IN MAY AND WE DOUBT THAT FURTHER EDUCATION OF
ALLIES -- AT LEAST AT POLITICAL LEVEL -- WOULD APPRECI-
ABLY CHANGE THE PRESENT SITUATION. MOREOVER, IN DIFFICULT
AND PROTRACTED US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN
ATTEMPTING TO DISABUSE SPAIN OF ITS STUBBORN ATTITUDE
THAT POSSIBILITY OF NATO CONNECTION FOR SPAIN STILL
EXISTS IF ONLY US WILL EXERCISE ITS QTE AUTHORITY UNQTE
WITHIN THE ALLIANCE. ANY CONSIDERATION NOW OF THIS
QUESTION OUTSIDE THE MC MIGHT GET BACK TO THE SPANISH,
THEREBY FURTHER COMPLICATING OUR EFFORTS TO WIND UP THE
BASE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD LEAVE SPANISH-NATO
ASSOCIATION QUESTION IN ABEYANCE FOR THE TIME BEING, AT
LEAST UNTIL US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN
COMPLETED. THEREAFTER, QUESTION MIGHT BE ADDRESSED AGAIN
IN NATO, PERHAPS SHIFTING THE FOCUS AT THAT TIME TO
STUDYING POST-FRANCO CONTINGENCIES.

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